

# The Canadian Champion

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## Improved bus service suggested

### Extended route, hours of service would cost town \$82,000 year

A transportation study prepared for the Town of Milton suggests a need for improved bus service in town. The study suggests extending the hours of service and increasing the frequency of service. Proposals outlined would see the cost jump from \$19,700 to about \$82,000 per year.

The key feature of the study suggestions would see a bus at each stop once every 40 minutes instead of once every 60 minutes, to reduce the waiting time for riders. A second feature is extension of the service, both in hours of service and the area covered.

The town currently contracts with Milton Bus Lines

to provide what is basically a one bus service for \$19,700 subsidy per year. If the town was to adopt either of the two main options outlined in the report the service cost would jump to an estimated \$82,360.

**Suggestions**

The study makes no recommendations but suggests ways the service could be improved and points out existing trends in the town now.

Joe Pavelka of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications presented findings of surveys and study to Milton Council Monday night. A committee comprised of the urban members of council will deal with the study and

its findings in detail and make recommendations to council.

Pavelka told council that 10 of approximately 100 households in Milton Heights said they would use public transit to Milton if it were convenient.

To accommodate those 10 households Pavelka said a trans cab service could be inaugurated. That involves a subsidized taxi running from the Heights to Steeles Ave. where passengers would transfer to a waiting bus and make the final section of the trip into town.

Go all the way? That service would cost an

estimated \$7,000. Councillor Jim Kerr wondered at the validity of a transfer at Steeles Ave. when the cab is within a short distance of its destination.

Pavelka said the system was suggested to make use of public transit. He suggested if the cab went all the way into town it wouldn't likely qualify for subsidy.

The study indicated that the routes serviced by Milton Bus Lines now managed to serve most of the people who expressed interest. Pavelka said that only three people indicated they'd have to walk more than 500 feet to a bus stop.

**May go later**

Currently bus service runs from 6.45 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. on Saturday. An additional bus runs from Dorset Park to the high school in the morning and provision is made to have a bus go to Fifth Wheel Stop in order to make a connection with Greyhound buses.

If proposals in the study are adopted, the bus would run one hour later Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and to 10.05 on Thursday and Friday and to 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Pavelka said the ridership

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ADVENT CANDLES were lit as part of a Christmas concert at St. Paul's United Church Sunday. Debbie Gowland lights the angel's candle. The concert followed the morning service and included songs, an original play and finally the visit by Santa Claus. About 200 attended.

## Angry farmers oppose freeze

Halton Federation of Agriculture members have voted 41-36 against the proposed land use policies that were approved by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and promoted by Halton Land Use Committee. The policies would have meant freezing good farmland in an agricultural zoning.

The vote came Tuesday after a presentation by OFA vice-president Frank Wall and an angry exchange that

saw Halton Federation vice-president Harold Middlebrook come to confrontation with several members.

While several farmers readily agreed to the need for preservation of agricultural land, they expressed concern about what form of compensation would be made available when their land is devalued.

**Near free-for-all**

The meeting appeared as if it might turn into a free-for-all when Middlebrook tried to limit dialogue to written questions and verbal answers.

## Kin will ring in new year

As 1974 ends and 1975 begins, hundreds of Miltonians will once again gather in the unofficial "town square" in front of the town hall to ring out the old, ring in the new.

Again this year the Dec. 31 new year's eve bell-ringing ceremony will be organized and sponsored by the town's newest service the informal bell-ringing ceremony has gathered citizens together in the street, beneath the town hall bell tower, to say farewell to the passing year and greet the incoming 365 days with gusto, with cheers and with a round of "Auld Lang Syne".

Peter Branch stood at the rear of the auditorium at Ernest Drury School for the Deaf and insisted on speaking and presenting a brief.

Middlebrook stood with hands on hips at the front of the room and said the Federation had called the meeting and Branch wasn't going to run it.

"I want to speak," said Branch.

Middlebrook's refusal to allow Branch to speak brought angry shouts from all sections of the room.

Kinsmen organizers have not yet finalized the selection of this year's official bell-ringer, but hope to have an announcement in time for next Monday's Champion. In recent years a prominent citizen has been chosen to do the honors.

**Necessarily brief**

Often a group of musicians accompanies the midnight singers in the brief refrain. The ceremony usually starts around 11.45 p.m. and ends by 12.05 a.m., its brevity necessitated by the chilly climate. It's open to all and there's no admission charge—everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

New Year's Eve bell-rings were launched on the eve

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"Farmers are being blackmailed," one farmer shouted as others about the room yelled at Middlebrook and accused him of trying to force farmers into endorsing the brief before they had been given an opportunity to become completely familiar with it.

**Don't tell me...**

"I'm a farmer and no-one is telling me what I can do with my land," another farmer shouted.

Eventually Branch was allowed to speak and was given permission to present his brief. He told the gathering he felt insufficient



POSTING THEIR LETTER to Santa Claus, c/o North Pole, are twins Lisa and Lori Hall, age 4. Hundreds of Milton children have sent letters to St. Nick, outlining their Christmas wants, and posted them at the special Santa's Letter Box in front of Milton Department Store on Main St. Santa and his helpers in toyland are trying to get an answer out to everyone.

## Private meeting

## Discuss budget

Milton Council started work on its five year capital budget forecast Monday night during a private meeting of council.

Last year and in prior years budget discussions have been done in open council and in full view of the public. Milton Council's stated policy is that all meetings are public with the exception of those that

deal with land acquisition or personnel matters.

**Nitty gritty**

Asked why the preliminary discussions were going to be held in camera this year, Mayor Anne MacArthur said it would be closed until the nitty gritty was dealt with.

"This council has done a good job in public relations

and I don't want anyone saying we were split on this or split on that," she said.

The five year forecast is a guide for capital spending over the next five years. Each year the forecast is updated by one year so there is always a five-year overview available.

## Will ban hunting throughout town

A draft by-law approved by Milton Council Monday night will ban hunting in the entire town of Milton, if it receives the necessary three readings.

The by-law had earlier contained a provision that would prohibit the discharge of firearms in the urban serviced area but not rural areas. When the by-law went before council it was amended to put the whole town in a no discharge zone.

The draft by-law as presented Monday night would have allowed hunting on private land with the consent of the landowner.

The change in the by-law was prompted by a plea from councillor Rick Day. He spoke of irresponsible sportsmen and indicated that it wasn't necessarily so, that all visitors from Hamilton and Toronto were irresponsible and all local people were responsible.

**Anything that moves**

Day read a letter from a woman in his ward who noted the scarcity of game near her home this year and expressed a fear that in the absence of game, hunters would be shooting at anything that moves.

He noted the time hunters had free to hunt was the same time others would have free to hike in the woods. "Hunters would just have to go further away to hunt and plan trips a little more in advance."

Councillor Jim Watson said Day's worries were needless. He said he wasn't a hunter but felt the proposed by-law provided the best of both worlds when the decision was the landowner's. "If he wants to allow hunting he may, and if he doesn't, that's up to him."

"It's not the best of both

worlds for the squirrels, rabbits and deer," Day retorted.

**Wants deer season**

Councillor Russ Powadiuk favored a deer hunting season and suggested the northern part of Nassagaweya had more deer this year than ever before. He suggested the animals would starve to death if not hunted.

As it stands the by-law will effectively ban all hunting within the limits of Milton. The by-law is expected to come before council early in the new year for formal approval.

## Fear dognapper in area

## Two valuable dogs disappear

Is there a dognapper operating in the Milton area? At least one local resident thinks so. A beautiful blonde Afghan, 11 months old and fully grown, disappeared on the weekend from a farm property on Tremaine Rd. near Derry Rd. Owner Linda

Reddall returned to find tire tracks half-way up the lane and no sign of the dog. A thorough search of the property and checks with neighbors failed to turn up any clue to the dog's whereabouts.

Four days earlier, a mile

further north on the same road, a blue tick hound disappeared from another home. "I think they are the only two purebred dogs on this road," she said.

The owner said her Afghan has the run of her place but it and another dog she owns are

"inseparable" and the Afghan was not the type of dog to run away on its own, especially after a whole month on the farm. "He's a purebred and class-looking, anyone would know at first glance he's an expensive dog," she said.

Last March the same woman lost a good German Shepherd pup from the same property. It had lived there six months and at the time she thought it was strange it would disappear so mysteriously.

Miss Reddall suggested The Champion should publish a warning to other dog owners, to keep an eye on their pets and beware of strangers in the district. "Especially around Christmas, I would hate to see anyone else lose their dog," she said.



FIREFIGHTERS STAND SILHOUETTED by the blazing ruins of a utility shed at the residence of Gary Hourd. The Sunday night blaze caused an estimated \$4,000 damage as the shed and

contents including a tractor were destroyed. Milton and Burlington firefighters responded to the call on the Guelph Line just north of Lowville.

## Early deadlines

## Champion publishes Monday next week

Your Champion will be published two days earlier during Christmas and New Year's weeks. Publication dates are Monday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 30 because both Christmas and New Year's holidays fall on the regular publication dates.

Because of the earlier publication schedule, deadlines for all news and display advertising

for next Monday's issue have been advanced to Thursday, Dec. 19—tomorrow. News deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday; display ads 12 noon Thursday; classified display 5 p.m. Thursday; classified word ads 12 noon Friday.

The office of The Champion will be closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day, Dec. 25 and 26.